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PROGRESS REPORT ON COMPREHENSIVE 1992 STATE-OF-THE-ENVIRONMENT REPORT (20 YEARS AFTER STOCKHOLM)

1. The Governing Council, in its decision 15/13 A, paragraph 7, requested the Executive Director to prepare a brief analytical report on changes in the state of the world environment since 1972, for presentation to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in 1992, and a comprehensive report on the state of the environment, covering the decade since the Council's session of a special character, held at Nairobi in 1982, for submission to the Council at its seventeenth regular session in 1993.

2. The Executive Director decided that the substantive information should be gathered for both reports at the same time and should be presented in the appropriate manner for each of the reports through a process of synthesis.

3. The preparation of the above reports is well under way. The Executive Director convened a meeting of senior advisors at Nairobi on 7-8 December 1989 to advise him on the structure of the reports. A preliminary structure was prepared and submitted to the Designated Officials for Environmental Matters (DOEM) and to the Committee of Permanent Representatives. Their comments and suggestions were analysed and incorporated into the structure by the senior advisors to the Executive Director during a second meeting, held at Nairobi from 27-30 March 1990. The revised proposed structure was also circulated to the DOEM and to the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

4. The Executive Director identified prospective authors for the different chapters of the reports and invited them to submit a three-page presentation of their respective chapters. These presentations were reviewed at an experts' meeting, held in Geneva from 3-5 July 1990, and the outcome of the meeting constituted the annotated structure of the reports and the guidelines for the preparation of the draft chapters.

5. The draft chapters were reviewed at a workshop held at Nairobi from 20-27 February 1991, with the participation of the authors, authorities in each of the fields and relevant UNEP Programme Officers.

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6. In the process of identifying authors and reviewers for the different chapters, special attention has been paid to ensuring a balanced representation of the various geographic regions. The same objective will be pursued throughout the various stages up to the finalization of the reports by means of consultations with experts and Governments on a broad geographical basis.

7. The technical editors are working on the draft chapters and on comments and suggestions made by the reviewers. A first draft report, covering all the substantive information gathered, is expected to be ready by June 1991 for submission to Governments, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts.